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MAY/JUNE 2021

A BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WHITTIER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VOL. 27 NO. 3

Community support needed for new Central Library

It is true that libraries enhance a community, and our Whittier Public Library has brought people together and made Whittier a better place to live for more than 60 years. But times have changed, technology has changed and the time has come to update this Whittier treasure.

Since 2002, Whittier City officials have looked for ways to build or renovate its Central Library. Dedicated in 1959 to replace the original Carnegie Library in Uptown Whittier, the library has outgrown its 34,463 square foot building in space and timely upgrades. The library collection alone grew from 80,000 items on opening day to over 220,000 items today which has led to overcrowded shelving, lack of seating for library users, inadequate electrical capacity for current technology and inadequate space for community meetings and programs. Internal items such as poor lighting, inadequate plumbing and HVAC systems and features that do not comply with accessibility standards are additional reasons why the library needed an overhaul.

Through funding from the City and partners such as Senator Bob Archuleta and Supervisor Janice Hahn, the Central Library Renovation will add 5,211 square feet to the existing building including a 1,773 square foot addition to be constructed in the location of the patio outside the current meeting room and a two-story 2,938 square foot addition in the location of the patio outside of the Adult Reference area. New features include



ADA compliant restrooms including a family restroom, a Community room enlarged for over 100-person capacity, a Veterans Resource Center room, a Passport acceptance room, two teen study rooms, an expanded local history room, a teen reading room and homework center. The renovated library will also include a makerspace with a 3-D printer, increased computer access and a dedicated children's storytime area.

Even though the Central library is closed, the library continues to provide services. "We're still here!" exclaimed Diane Hara, Library Administration. Residents are still able to go online to request a book which they can pick up at The Depot or Whittwood Branch curbside. Library users can still get a library card online and E-books, magazines, databases, films all available online. For those who need assistance, the reference desk is still staffed by librarians at The Depot or Whittwood Branch.

In addition, the library pop up trailer still goes out to different sites throughout the community to promote "Rec and Read" at different parks.

With all of the exciting changes taking place, it is assured that our beloved statue of the Barefoot Boy and his pond will be protected and remain in its current location.

Through currently planned and future fundraisers, the Whittier Public Library Foundation hopes to raise \$1.5 million that will be used, in part, to create a welcoming space that is current and up-to-date where people can come and use the resources and technology that is available, according to Sue Settlage, Vice President of Fundraising for WPL Foundation and Chair of the Renovation Campaign.

"We are honoring the past, investing in the future and building a legacy for the Library's tomorrow," explained Settlage who added that the WPL Foundation's goal is to renovate the library for future generations to enjoy.

"We have heard some amazing stories about how the Library has impacted the lives of our local residents," stated Hara. If you have fond memories of the Whittier Public Library, the Foundation is looking for personal donors to help contribute. Donor opportunities include participation

Continued on page 4



PRESORTED STANDARD U.S. POSTAGE **PAID** WHITTIER, CA PERMIT# 355





City leaders to share community vision, updates on economic recovery and development highlights at State of the City Address

City of Whittier staff and leaders, including Mayor Joe Vinatieri, City Manager Brian Saeki and Whittier's executive team, will reflect on City accomplishments from the past year, discuss COVID-19 recovery, review the City Council's strategic goals and more at the annual State of the City Address presented by the Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce's Economic Development Committee.

This popular event, in partnership with event sponsors Athens Services, Brookfield Residential, Kaiser Permanente, MAP Property Management, Republic Services, Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas Company, and Suburban Water will be held virtually on Thursday, June 24 at 9 a.m. All businesses and residents are invited to attend this important business event and submit questions

in advance or during the presentation. Tickets are \$20 per attendee with each registrant receiving a \$10 gift card to a local restaurant.

"Everything looks a little different these days, but we are committed to providing access to credible information for our members and the business community," stated Carol Crosby, Whittier Chamber President and CEO. Under normal circumstances, attendees would be gathering together to enjoy breakfast and camaraderie; however, this year the program can be enjoyed from the comfort of one's own home or office. Additionally, attendees will be helping the Whittier economy recover as each registrant will receive a \$10 gift card to support a local restaurant.

This year's Address will highlight the City Council's goals and objectives

for the new fiscal year, as well as commercial and residential development projects throughout the City, capital improvements, infrastructure upgrades, the City's budget and information on public safety. Officials will also provide details regarding completion of the General Plan, renovation of the Central Library, the Gold Line transit extension, the Greenleaf Promenade, and other current projects and programming.

"I am honored to serve as the Mayor of Whittier and be part of such a dedicated and driven group of business owners and organizations supporting one another through what has been a difficult year for so many," stated Mayor Joe Vinatieri. "We've weathered the worst of the COVID-19 storm and Whittier's on the

Continued on page 7

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Whittier Chamber Business Focus Official Publication of the Whittier Area **Chamber of Commerce**

This publication is mailed to 12,000 licensed businesses in the city of Whittier, all Whittier Chamber members, and Whittier residents in selected areas.

We welcome comments, press releases, and community interest stories. The Whittier Chamber reserves the right to approve and edit submitted

The inclusion of advertising, logos, or paid advertorial, or reference to any products, process, service, trade name, trademark, or manufacturer in this publication is not an endorsement by the Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I am honored and humbled to be elected as the new Chair of the Board for the Whittier Chamber of Commerce.

I am grateful that the Chamber has provided me the opportunity throughout the years to network, connect with new business opportunities and make new friends, but the Chamber has a bigger purpose. The Whittier Chamber serves as the voice of the business community and the economic development engine whose goal is to cultivate growth and prosperity in our community. We believe a thriving business community is a key component to making Whittier the best place to live, work, shop and play. We play a valuable role in bringing jobs to town, helping businesses grow locally, developing the workforce of tomorrow, creating economic prosperity and more.

I joined the Chamber in 2004. I became a volunteer on the Ambassador Team shortly after that and throughout the years I have served on various committees. I have always been a fan of collaboration and when people work together, more great things can be accomplished.

When asked to be part of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors several years ago, I immediately said yes. I am about community and giving back when possible. Since I live and work in Whittier, serving in a leadership position for the Chamber was an obvious choice.

I'm excited about the direction that the Whittier Chamber is heading. We have a lot of new ideas and business opportunities for our members who have time to participate and especially for those who do not. This past year has been a great example of getting value out of your Chamber membership without ever having to "be involved." I am proud that this past year the Chamber served as your one-stop resource center with timely and credible information on grants, COVID news, health mandates and funding through 2 city-wide grants that put money directly in the hands of our local businesses who needed it most.

As we move forward into the business recovery stage, our Board of Directors has identified 4 strategic areas on which we will focus our time and energy: networking, business and economic development, marketing and advocacy. All 4 of these areas





have specific goals which will ultimately make us a stronger Chamber that can better serve your needs no matter if you are a long-time or new member, small business or large, nonprofit or civic member. We will continue to be by your side as we work together to recover our economy this year.

I want to thank our volunteer leaders from the Board of Directors and Ambassador Team for their commitment to our current and new members, with a special shout out to Bryan Tabizon for his leadership as Chair of the Board this past year. Thank you to the City of Whittier, Council members and Mayor for their continuous support of the business community this year and their partnership with the Whittier Chamber of Commerce. However, the biggest thank you goes to our members for allowing us to serve you and be your local business advocate. Please continue to support the Chamber's efforts to build back a strong, vibrant, and safe community and always remember to Shop Local!

SBDC offers webinars designed to assist business owners

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) provides small business entrepreneurs with no-cost, confidential, training opportunities in the Los Angeles area. Whether you are starting a new business, need help with your existing business, or you are ready to expand your business, experts at the SBDC

Here are some upcoming webinars:

How To Sell When You're Not A Salesperson

Tuesday, May 11, 2021, 5pm to 6:30pm

Business owners and entrepreneurs must promote their business or products before, and they lack training to approach the challenge. To address this situation,

Legal Entity Webinar Monday, May 17, 2021, 10am to 11:30am

This in-depth webinar addresses a business advising services and low-cost multitude of important topics regarding legal entities and other important decisions you will need to make as a business owner. One of the first decisions will include how the company will be structured. Because of this, we will cover the basics of regulatory filings that permit new owners to properly set up entities in California.

How To Podcast From Home Wednesday, May 19, 2021, 2pm to 3:30pm

In this webinar, you will discover to investors, customers or clients. Often, how you can strategically use a this is something they have never done PODCAST as a way to organically grow your brand and credibility, and position you as an expert in this workshop has been built to help you your field. It will inspire potential recruiting, franchising, the meaning of learn much of what you need to know. clients/customers to want to buy life and more.

from you, because they will know and trust you.

Live Q&A: All About Marketing **Your Business**

Friday, May 21, 2021, 11am to Noon

Join the Long Beach SBDC for our Live Marketing Q&A addressing questions on how to effectively market and grow your business. SBDC advisor and Business Growth Strategist David Mitroff Ph.D. and Brad Pollak, Director of the Long Beach SBDC, will interact live with the audience via Zoom and answer questions covering a broad range of marketing topics including cutting edge marketing ideas, business development strategies, how to leverage online platforms to grow your brand, mind-set and professional growth, ways to develop strategic partnerships, event marketing, business operations,

Continued on page 7

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CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE

The CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE is a dedicated group of influential businesses that help shape our community vision and support the Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce's ability to strengthen the regional economy.





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Oscar Hernandez, Boys & Girls Clubs of Whittier



Kevin Koga, PIH Health



Gina-Marie Lopez, Whittier College

Dynamic business leaders join Chamber Board of Directors

Three business and community leaders were installed as the newest Directors on the Chamber's twenty member Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting and Installation event in April. The Chamber looks forward to their guidance and expertise as the Board collectively works on providing programs and resources that fit the needs of our business community. Please join us in welcoming:



Linda Garrido - Coby Madison Jewelers

For over 30 years Linda Garrido has played a significant role in the wholesale end of the jewelry industry in sales, later transitioning to sales director. She is known for having an emphasis in product development for the branded line Natalie K. She has created 90 percent of the jewelry in the Forevermark (De Beers) tribute collection. Her emphasis has been primarily in B2B sales for fine independent jewelry retailers and the largest retail chains in the country. She served on the JCK Advisory Board which oversees the largest jewelry trade show in the country.

Linda has had many experiences and accomplishments within the jewelry world but her ultimate goal was to create her own legacy. Twelve years ago, Linda's vision was to start up her own successful jewelry business so she decided to make her dream a reality by creating an online jewelry store CobyMadison Jewelers. With her life being heavily influenced by family she decided to name her business after her two grandchildren. As her online company continued to grow she decided to open up CobyMadison as her own brick and mortar jewelry store in the city of Whittier to work closer to family and the community they live in. Initially located in the Whittwood Town Center for 6 years, CobyMadison shifted to Uptown Whittier which is where they are currently located. CobyMadison is pleased in providing the community with fine jewelry and unforgettable service for over 7 years.



Monica Peters, Hebert Design Werks



Tania Ragland-Castaneda, Republic Services, Inc.



Ambassador Chair Laurie Perschbacher, MAP Property Management, Inc.



Kevin Koga - PIH Health

Kevin Koga has served as director of Marketing Communications at PIH Health since 2014. In this position, he helps oversee the organization's marketing, advertising, web/social media, publications, communications and government relations activities. Kevin has worked in healthcare marketing for the majority of his career. Prior to PIH Health, he worked at City of Hope, USC Health Sciences, Kaiser Permanente and The Parsons Corporation. Kevin has chaired the National Cancer Institute's Public Affairs Network, served as a member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network's Marketing Committee and provided volunteer consulting to Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti's office. He holds a bachelor's degree from UCLA and a master's degree from the London School of Economics. Kevin is married with two children and in his spare time enjoys the outdoors. He is delighted to serve on the Chamber Board and looks forward to contributing to the Whittier business, cultural and healthcare communities.

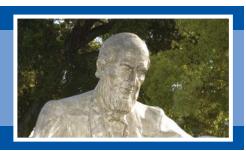


Gina Lopez - Whittier College

Gina Lopez is the Director of the Whittier College Center for Engagement with Communities. In this role, Gina looks to create meaningful and mutually beneficial experiences for Whittier College students to engage with the greater Whittier area community. Since coming to Whittier from New Jersey in 2009 to attend Whittier College, Gina was mentored by many Whittier Chamber members and is extremely grateful for the support that so many gave her. She is excited to serve on the Chamber Board and to give back to the community that helped her so much. Gina currently serves on the board of Whittier Area First Day and LEARN, is a part of the Whittier Rotary Club and is an active participant on other community coalitions and collaboratives.







MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Spring has sprung in Whittier and not a second too soon! As I reflect on the past vear, I am full of gratitude for so many members of the Whittier community, from all of the dedicated health care workers and frontline personnel, to our teachers and small business owners working tirelessly to navigate during changing restrictions. I also want to thank each of you for your continued efforts over the last year to keep each other safe and slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Although limitations on in-person attendance may continue as we await further guidance on resuming special events, rest assured that City staff is working hard to provide many opportunities for local families and neighbors to connect and have fun throughout the summer. We will continue to keep residents informed of updates via our website and social media channels as reopening progresses regarding things like our Summer Concert Series, Movies in the Park (or Drive-In) and our July 4th

Speaking of updates, we had a changing of the City Council guard recently and I'm looking forward to working alongside Mayor Pro Tem Cathy Warner this year who was appointed by the Council to serve in the role during our first meeting in April. I'd also like to commend and thank Council member Henry Bouchot who remained engaged in service to our community throughout his time as Mayor Pro Tem in what has been a very challenging year. Together, with Council member Jessica Martinez and Council member Fernando Dutra, we will be working collaboratively over the coming months to continue our support for residents and business owners in Whittier as we navigate the aftermath of this pandemic. We are still not in the clear for gathering in our normal fashion, so members of the public are reminded to provide comment on items before the City Council by emailing ccd@cityofwhittier. org in advance of the virtual meetings or by calling (562) 567-9850. Speakers are also able to participate in the Council's live meetings via Zoom by calling in or sharing their statement by video. Login credentials and additional information on how to engage in our meeting process will remain available on the City Clerk webpage and posted at the top of each meeting agenda until further notice. Virtual City Council meetings are available for live streaming from the City's website as well as on cable channel 3.

Over the course of this pandemic, the Whittier Recovery Plan has provided direction, guidance and support to residents and businesses by way of resources, housing solutions, funding opportunities and more, thanks to the help of local partners and community stakeholders. The City Council remains committed to ensuring that we get people back to work and our businesses up and running at full steam again as soon as we can. I'm proud of the work we've done to enhance accessibility and make City services more available online, as well as prioritize business assistance

by disbursing nearly \$650,000 through the Whittier Relief Fund and other local grant programs to help small business owners cover expenses for things like personal protective equipment, unpaid rent, utilities and outdoor dining equipment. As one of the first local cities to offer outdoor dining in our time of emergency, I'm equally grateful that our City Council acted swiftly by allowing Whittier restaurants to serve in the public right-of-way and took further action to approve a temporary closure of Greenleaf Avenue (the Greenleaf Promenade) for a minimum of 120 days after the point at which restaurants can serve indoors again at full capacity. This kind of outside-of-the-box thinking has generated positive feedback from members of the community and the City Council has opted to review proposals to enhance the Greenleaf Promenade that would incorporate elements of the Uptown Whittier Streetscape Plan and other unique ideas for beautification that could make a more seasonal or permanent Promenade fixture attainable. And we can begin to think about this as we now have our new beautiful, state-of-the-art pavilion. The City will be conducting a comprehensive survey to gather feedback and gauge the community's interest in the Promenade, including the business and property owners located within the Uptown Whittier area, and we would appreciate your participation in that process. Please watch for more details on how to respond and share your thoughts with us.

May means that budget season is upon us, and we will have much to consider as we gear up for the year ahead. The City Council and staff will take part in an annual budget study session during a special City Council meeting on May 4, 2021 which will be streamed live from the City's website and available for viewing on channel 3. The fiscal health of our City remains a top priority, and despite the challenges that COVID-19 has created in terms of revenue, we will be reviewing all of our programs, services and operations to ensure efficiency and long-term sustainability. The passing of Measure W last year will allow the City to continue offering great service, great events and great programming for our community and we will be keeping you updated over the next few months on how and where we are utilizing those funds to benefit our residents. There will be more ideas to talk about and updates to share, including current progress at The Groves, a peoplemover concept, a City-wide branding initiative, the Greenway Trail East extension, the renovation of Central Library and more during the annual State of The City address slated for June. Watch for an official date and further details to be shared on social media soon.

The Parks, Recreation and Community Services staff has coordinated a wide variety of new family friendly spring and summer recreation classes and you're invited to browse all of the activities at

www.whittierrec.com. Choose from everything including homework help and art instruction to dance, fitness and even in-person dog training. We also know how important both physical and mental health have been during this time and our parks are open and ready for you to enjoy. For those who prefer the pool, the Palm Park Aquatics Center offers limited lap swim and water aerobics, and the tennis courts are also available by reservation only. Similarly, our Library staff continues to provide online workshops, tutorials and special events via their website, as well as books, magazines, music, movies and more available for streaming. Visit www.whittierlibrary. org to review monthly happenings and stay connected. I'm thrilled to see that demolition and construction of the new Central Library is officially underway, however curbside book pick-up is still available at the Whittier Historic Depot and the Whittwood Branch locations for your convenience.

I know this past year has been



MAYOR Joe Vinatieri

tough and we are all seeking a familiar sense of normalcy, but I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to City staff, our businesses and our community members for your ongoing patience and flexibility throughout this pandemic. There is a light at the end of this tunnel and its shining right on us! For those who are still in need of a vaccination, visit www.myturn.ca.gov to make an appointment and continue to follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at @WhittierCityGov to stay informed and connected.

Happy Mothers' and Fathers' Day to all the parents out there. As always, there's much to be grateful for this year and I wish all of you a special day with your little ones. Here's to the warmer weather and bluer skies ahead of us this summer! Remember, Whitter's on the Move!

City, Chamber grants \$600,000 in financial relief to Whittier businesses

Through two grants that were funded by the City of Whittier out of its General Fund account, the Whittier Chamber of Commerce and its Business & Economic Recovery Taskforce awarded \$600,000 to help more than 500 local businesses survive the COVID-19 pandemic and mandated shutdowns. The first grant, the Whittier Small Business COVID Compliant Grant provided \$500 to assist businesses with PPE-related expenses. The second grant, the Whittier Relief Fund, provided \$500 to personal care establishments and between \$2,000 - \$2,500 to restaurants and other qualifying businesses that generated sales tax revenue.

Both grants provided a modest boost to many small businesses, including restaurant owners and those in the personal care industry, who have tried to make ends meet during the past year. "City of Whittier small businesses and organizations are vital to our community because of the jobs they provide to our residents, the sales tax they generate, and the services that they provide which are critical to the public," explained Sandra Hahn, Chair of the Whittier Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and owner of Crêpes & Grapes Café. "We were pleased with the City Council's quick, business-friendly action and support of Whittier businesses," she added.

The Chamber's Business & Economic Recovery Taskforce, comprised of business and community leaders continues to meet bi-weekly to brainstorm ways in which the Chamber can assist businesses during the rebuilding stage of this pandemic. "It's our goal to provide programs that are needed to help our business owners survive during this recovery stage and thrive as we make our way back to normal times," stated Cheryl Estep, Business & Economic Recovery Taskforce Chair and State Farm agent.

New Central Library - Continued from front page

on the Donor wall which starts at \$500 for your name on the wall and in the Community Room, Homework Center, Children's Furnishings, Children's Story Area, Conference Room, Veteran's Resource Center, Local History Room, Computer Lab, Teen Lounge, Teen Study Room and Makerspace. Funds will also be raised through events such as What's Cooking at the Library which will feature 5 local chefs, an Author series including a Q & A session on Zoom and outdoor family events being planned in July and August. Additionally, the Foundation Board is hoping to hold its popular Booktoberfest in person in October.

While the Library renovations are expected to be completed by March, 2022, the Foundation is raising money through December, 2021. In addition to the enhancements inside the Library,

money raised will help the Foundation provide programs year-round featuring entertainers and authors. "We want to provide programs that people are looking for," explained Settlage. "Whittier is changing and we want to include more cultural programs with music and dance that everyone can enjoy," she continued.

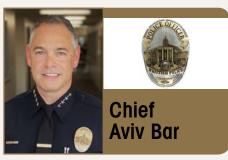
Anyone who makes a contribution of \$50 or more will become a member of the WPL Foundation. For those who wish to donate or stay connected to the progress and updates, visit the Foundation website at www.whittierplf. org or follow on facebook.com/CentralLibraryRenovationCampaign. To contact the WPL Foundation, email read@whittierplf.org or contact Fundraising Chair Sue Settlage at suesettlage@gmail.com.











Mail thieves are constantly on the lookout for easy-to-access mail boxes with mail left inside. They are mainly looking for checks, credit card and loan applications, bank statements, and any correspondence with account numbers. Most of these thieves are drug users looking to sell found mail for a few bucks to identity thieves. The addicts get money for more drugs and the identity thieves go to work cashing found checks or opening up credit accounts in the victim's name.

What starts as an envelope left in an easy-to-access mail box can end up with financial problems and a very frustrating time for the victim. Mail theft and the trouble that follows are PREVENTABLE.

Here are some easy tips to help you prevent becoming a victim:

 Invest in a high quality locking mailbox. These are available online and in most home improvement stores.

Mail Theft Prevention

- Mail arrives at about the same time each day... be aware of the time and make sure to remove mail from the mailbox as soon as it is delivered. NEVER leave mail in the box overnight.
- Contact banks and credit card companies and GO PAPERLESS. They will email you links to your statements doing away with any financial information being sent to your mailbox.
- •DO NOT leave outgoing mail in your mailbox for pickup - especially envelopes with checks or account numbers inside.
- When you get unsolicited credit card applications, contact the company and request to be taken off their mailing list.
- •Do the 9PM routine. Make sure vehicles are locked and no property has been left in them... and on the way back in, make sure your mailbox is empty for the night.

Let's not give crooks an easy way to access personal information!



Manager Saeki, Council Member Jessica Martinez, Council Member Fernando Dutra, former City Manager Jeff Collier, Council Member Cathy Warner and Mayor Joe Vinatieri cut the ribbon on the 3-story parking structure located on the east side of Comstock Avenue between Bailey Philadelphia The structure contains 351 parking stalls which are 20 feet by 10 feet and 4 charging stations.



City Manager Brian Saeki, Mayor Joe Vinatieri, Council Member Cathy Warner and Council Member Jessica Martinez break ground on the east extension of the Greenway Trail. The Greenway Trail East Extension will add 2.8 miles to the existing 4.6-mile trial. The addition will begin at Mills Avenue and continue onto the city boundary at Valley Home. The Greenway Trail benefits the City by alleviating traffic congestion, improving air quality and providing a scenic greenbelt area through Whittier. The City improved the crossing sections at seven locations along the trail as a part of the Extension project. In addition, there will be new lighting, ADA compliant sidewalks, pedestrian barricades, median islands and more installed or constructed for safety and to make the extension aesthetically pleasing to our community.

Whittier City Council Member Fernando Dutra to serve on Metro board



Fernando Dutra, Whittier City Council Member

Whittier City Councilmember Fernando Dutra has been appointed to serve on the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) board, replacing outgoing board member Robert Garcia, Mayor of Long Beach. A countywide City Selection Committee voted unanimously on March 8, 2021 to ratify Councilmember Dutra's appointment, who will represent the Southeast Long Beach sector and Gateway Cities through his term ending January 1, 2025.

Councilmember Dutra has prioritized transportation projects throughout his 22 years of public service, advocating for improvements in Whittier and nearby communities as a member of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments (COG)

Transportation Board and League of Cities Transportation and Public Works Commission for nearly a decade. As the original Chairman of the Gold Line Light Rail Coalition, Dutra has remained an outspoken proponent of the proposed Eastside terminus in Whittier as well as further development of the West Santa Ana Branch, recognizing the unique needs of communities located in areas lacking accessibility to high-quality public transportation.

"I am proud to represent the Southeast Long Beach region and am ready to hit the ground running," said Councilmember Dutra. "I will continue to prioritize progress in areas with the highest need and work towards advancing our collective vision of connecting people to better transit opportunities where they work and where they live."

Councilmember Dutra's background in general contracting has provided him unique technical experience and in-depth knowledge of large-scale infrastructure projects, and his vast understanding of transportation policy made him a favorable candidate to represent the Southeast Long Beach region on the Metro board. Dutra has demonstrated his commitment to establishing key partnerships among neighboring cities and continues to lobby on behalf of the COG at the state and federal levels for vital funding and resources in his various service roles.

"I am proud of all that Fernando has done to put Whittier on the transit map and for his advocacy on behalf of our community," said Mayor Joe Vinatieri. "His involvement with the Gold Line extension and the COG's Transportation Committee will only add value to the board and help secure equitable funding across our Southeast region for years to come."

Councilmember Dutra was sworn in during a virtual committee meeting Wednesday, March 17, 2021 and will participate in his first official meeting of the Metro board on Thursday, March 25, 2021.



California law requires all employers of 5 or more employees to provide 1 hour of sexual harassment and abusive conduct prevention training to nonsupervisory employees and 2 hours of sexual harassment and abusive conduct prevention training to supervisors and managers once every two years. Training must take place within six months of hire or promotion and every two years thereafter.

Topics covered by an experienced sexual harassment prevention

- instructor and investigator include:
- Examples of what constitutes unlawful harassment discrimination, and retaliation in the workplace Remedies and solutions available to employees Real-life hypothetical and practical information
 - Interactive question-and-answer session HOSTED BY:

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8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

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1-hour **Employee Training** 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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WHAT'S COOL IN YOUR SCHOOL

Whittier Union Announces First Phase of Measure AA Bond Facilities Upgrade Projects

improvements from the \$183 million Measure AA bond, passed by voters last November, providing structural relief and security enhancement for each of the District's comprehensive high schools.

has been earmarked for 16 projects designed to modernize schools and District structures, improve energy efficiency, and provide increased access to technology. The initial round of improvements and construction, which began in January, is slated to proceed through June 2025.

"The Measure AA Phase 1 projects cover many of the pressing infrastructure needs throughout the District, combined with facilities projects that look towards the future and transform the community," Whittier Union Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Kevin Jamero said. "Thank you to Whittier residents for supporting the District vision with the passage of Measure AA."

Among the first phase of construction are two new state-of-the-art swimming pools slated for California and La Serna high schools and renovation of Whittier High's storied Vic Lopez auditorium.

in 2022, each with a two-year completion timeline. and dedication to our scholars and their success."

Whittier Union High School District has announced The renovation of Vic Lopez Auditorium will begin in the first phase of scheduled facilities upgrades and September 2021, with an estimated completion date of October 2022.

> At Santa Fe High School, the gym HVAC overhaul, which began in January, will be completed by August.

Additionally, the Whittier Aquatic Center at Pioneer Roughly one-third of the bonds issued, \$50 million, High School, which is under construction, features a state-of-the-art facility with an Olympic-sized pool, a practice pool, locker rooms and classrooms. The aquatic center, which is funded by Los Angeles County and not Measure AA, will open in fall 2022 and host Pioneer students for swimming competitions.

The remainder of Measure AA Phase 1 projects will address much-needed upgrades and improvements such as roof repairs, interior lighting, air conditioning, security fencing and science lab renovations across the District. Sustainable synthetic turf will replace existing athletic field turf at Santa Fe, Whittier and La Serna high schools.

The overwhelming support for Measure AA is a clear indication that Whittier Union has a mandate to make the necessary improvements to our schools and provide a nurturing and healthy academic environment for our children for years to come,' Superintendent Martin J. Plourde said. "Whittier Union The swimming pool projects will break ground is thankful to our community for its continued support

Río Hondo College Approves Superintendent/President Contract



Teresa Dreyfuss, Superintendent/ President

Río Hondo College's Board of Trustees unanimously approved Teresa Dreyfuss' contract Superintendent/President during a virtual board meeting on March 24, extending her role of leading the College through June 2022.

Dreyfuss has been with Río Hondo College since 1987, serving in various

roles such as senior accountant, vice president of finance and business, chief financial officer and controller/ business manager before her first appointment as Superintendent/President in 2013.

Dreyfuss retired in 2019 but was reappointed as acting Superintendent/President by the Board of Trustees on July 18, 2020.

"We are thrilled to have approved Superintendent/ President Dreyfuss' contract with our College for another year," Board of Trustees President Rosaelva Lomeli said. "She is an excellent leader and has proven herself as an outstanding Superintendent/ President who is focused on student success."

Dreyfuss holds an MBA from the University of La Verne and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Chinese Culture. She has worked as a part-time instructor at Río Hondo College and Los Angeles City College, teaching accounting and business classes for more than 10 years. She also served as the director of business at Riverside Community College District.

"It is an honor to continue my work as Superintendent/ President for Río Hondo College," Dreyfuss said. "My focus is to look for new and dynamic ways to improve and transform the lives of our students at Río Hondo College, and this contract renewal means I can continue my mission once again."

Below is a list of Whittier Union Measure AA Phase 1 projects, with estimated start and completion dates:

Security fencing at Cal, Pioneer, La Serna, Whittier - Apr. - Aug. 2021 La Serna High structural overhang improvements - May - Aug. 2021 • Districtwide roof repair - June 2021 - June 2025

Santa Fe High synthetic athletic field and upgrades – June 2021 - May 2022

Whittier High auditorium structural improvements - Sept. 2021 - Oct. 2022 • Whittier High synthetic athletic field - Sept.-Nov. 2021 La Serna High synthetic athletic field – Dec. 2021-Feb. 2022 • Whittier High tennis courts/parking lot corrections – Jan. - May 2022 SEC science labs - Jan. - Aug. 2022 • Pioneer High small gym HVAC - May - July 2022

La Serna High swimming pool - May 2022 - May 2024 • Districtwide interior classroom lighting - June - Sept. 2022 Whittier High science labs – June 2022 - May 2024 • Cal High swimming pool – Dec. 2022 - Jan. 2025 District performing arts theater – June 2023 - June 2025



SBDC webinars - Continued from page 2



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State of the City Address - Continued from front page Move! This year's focus will be ensuring that our students get back to learning, our residents get back to work, and our shops stay open for business. The City Council is committed to ensuring our safety, prioritizing economic growth and job opportunities, continued homelessness outreach and supporting our families through special programs and activities. This pandemic was tough and changed the way we live, but it also pushed us to think outside the box, and I'm excited about the new ideas

Whittier a great place to live, work, and shop now and for years to come," he continued.

"The Whittier Chamber is pleased to provide access to our local elected officials and City staff and host this important event for our business community," stated Chamber Chair of the Board Sandra Hahn from Crêpes & Grapes Café. "These have, and continue to be, challenging times for all of us right now and the State of the City Address is an excellent chance for local businesses and residents to stay connected and get www.whittierchamber.com. and initiatives we're working on to continue to keep, the latest information about our community's recovery

efforts and more," added Economic Development Committee chair RD McDonnell. "There are exciting things happening in our city and we look forward to sharing them with you," added Hahn.

Take advantage of this opportunity to hear firsthand what is happening in and around Whittier by participating in this special address to the community on Thursday, June 24. To register for the Whittier Chamber's 2021 State of the City Address, please visit



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Do you receive financial statements from your accountant and not understand what those documents are telling you about the condition of your business? This seminar will help you understand the real purpose of financial reports such as Profit Loss statements and Balance Sheets and how to use these reports to more effectively manage your business. In addition, we will show you how to use a simple cash flow model that will help you do a better job of managing your cash.

Understanding Your Financials

Tuesday, May 25, 2021, 5pm to 6:30pm

Live Q&A: All About Social Media For Your Business Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 2pm to 3:30pm

Are you overwhelmed by Social Media marketing? Are you posting but not seeing likes convert to sales? Join the Long Beach SBDC for our Live Social Media Q&A, addressing questions on how to effectively use social media to grow your business. SBDC Marketing and Social Media advisor Deborah Deras, and Brad Pollak, Director of the Long Beach SBDC, will interact live with the audience via Zoom and answer questions covering a broad range of social media topics including how to clarify social media marketing goals, how to structure your messaging, which social media platforms to be on, how to schedule posts on various platforms, where to find great content, and more.

Developing A Plan To Start (or Recover) Your **Business In Today's Unusual Times** Thursday, May 27, 2021, 11am to 1pm

Having a focused business plan has never proven so important. Successful business planning leads to successful business results and the ability to change course when all around you is also changing. This webinar will cover all aspects of creating a business plan, as well as emphasize the importance of setting measurable strategies and tactics to help achieve these goals.

Business Development Strategies Friday May 28, 2021, 10am to Noon

In this workshop, David Mitroff Ph.D. walks you through assessing your current business development strategies that are critical components for business growth today. This includes reviewing engagement marketing strategies, Customer Relationship Management (CRM) tools, sales techniques and more. Learn how to screen potential new clients faster, streamline lead follow-up methods, and more, to shorten sales cycles and increase revenues.

To register for these SBDC webinars, please go to www.longbeachsbdc.org/workshops

The SBDC is funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration and a grant with the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development.



Laurie Perschbacher - Owner

Whittier Chamber Business and Community Awards

At the Whittier Chamber's Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration held in April, businesses and volunteers were recognized for their outstanding service to the Chamber and Whittier community. Please join us in congratulating this year's winners.

2020-2021 Community Heroes

Community Heroes are inspiring individuals, organizations or businesses who, through their selflessness, strength and self-sacrifice, have been agents of change, positively benefitting others in and around the Whittier community. The Community Hero Awards were created by the Whittier Chamber in 2021 to honor those who have stepped up and gone above and beyond to support the Whittier area community during the COVID-19 pandemic.



PIH Health

Bryan Tabizon, 2020-2021 Whittier Chamber Chair of the Board, Ramona Pratt RN MSN, PIH Health Whittier Hospital Chief Nursing Officer, Jim West, PIH Health President and Chief Executive Officer and Debra Legan, PIH Health Vice President, Marketing and Consumer Engagement



Whittier Hospital

Bryan Tabizon, 2020-2021 Whittier Chamber Chair of the Board, Rick Castro, Whittier Hospital CEO, and Carol Crosby, Whittier Chamber President and CEO



Kaiser Permanente

Bryan Tabizon, Whittier Chamber Chair of the Board
James T. Lee, MD, Area Medical Director, Southern California Permanente Medical Group
Jose Yakushi, MD, Physician In Charge, Kaiser Permanente Whittier Medical Offices
Susana Englehart, Asst. Department Administrator, Kaiser Permanente Whittier Medical Offices
Jim Branchick, RN, Senior Vice President, Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Offices



Rose Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary

Patrick Monroe, Rose Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary President & CEO, Bryan Tabizon, Rose Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary Director of Administration and Carol Crosby, Whittier Chamber President and CEO



Guerra Gutierrez Mortuary

Bryan Tabizon, 2020-2021 Whittier Chamber Chair of the Board, Ron Galarze, Guerra Gutierrez Funeral Director and Carol Crosby, Whittier Chamber President and CEO



White Emerson Mortuary

Bryan Tabizon, 2020-2021 Whittier Chamber Chair of the Board, Paul White, White Emerson Managing Director and Carol Crosby, Whittier Chamber President and CEO





Chair of the Year

The Chair of the Year award goes to someone who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership and achieved positive outcomes within a committee or group. This person is someone who is organized, reliable, creative, respected, and hands-on. This year Cheryl Estep stepped up immediately and worked tirelessly to help create the Business and Economic Recovery Taskforce (BERT) designed to help businesses and our economy recover. In partnership with our City and others, Cheryl was instrumental in organizing not one, but two grants, designed to get money into the hands of businesses who needed it most. She and members of her taskforce met weekly to review and approve applications and brainstorm ideas for our local economic recovery.



9

Chair of the Year 2020-2021
Carol Crosby, Whittier Chamber President and CEO,
Cheryl Estep, State Farm Insurance and
Bryan Tabizon, 2020-2021 Whittier Chamber
Chair of the Board

Business of the Year

The Business of the Year is chosen based on the business's overall contributions which lead to the prosperity of the Whittier community. Troy Silva and his team at Orchard's BBQ and Grill really stepped up for our businesses this year at a time when they needed help and worked with a heart for our community.

There were multiple business owners who acted quickly to adapt and pivot to changing times, but Orchards really stood out this year. Not only did Troy and his team provide exceptional service and needed food and supplies to our community, they also provided 100 meals a day for 30 days to front-line workers including at our local hospitals, police and fire departments, grocery store workers and senior care facilities. In addition, they worked with their food vendors to provide PPE and other supplies to fellow restaurants who were struggling this year. Troy and his wife Debbie are great examples of generosity in our community.



Business of the Year 2020-2021
Bryan Tabizon, 2020-2021 Whittier Chamber
Chair of the Board and
Troy Silva, owner of Orchard's BBQ & Grill

Volunteer of the Year

The Volunteer of the Year is someone who gives 100% to any committee, program or commitment made to the Chamber. This person is typically creative, reliable, generous with their time, talent and treasure and doesn't hesitate to do whatever is asked. Just like this past year that has been anything but ordinary, the Chamber broke tradition and presented this award this year to 2 amazing volunteers. Both Nate Ploog and Jeff Ball served on the Chamber's Business and Economic Recovery Taskforce and the Grant Review Committee for the Whittier Small Business COVID Compliant Grant and the Whittier Relief Fund, often meeting twice a week for most of 2020 and into 2021.



Volunteer of the Year 2020-2021
Carol Crosby, Whittier Chamber President and CEO,
Nate Ploog, DialMED Home Care and
Bryan Tabizon, 2020-2021 Whittier Chamber
Chair of the Board

The Volunteer of the Year for 2019 was given to someone who has been a dedicated Chamber committee member and has gone above and beyond to serve the Chamber. During Elizabeth's term, the Chamber had numerous events and John Bogdanov was always the first one to arrive and the last to leave. John never hesitated to do whatever was asked whether it was in his role as an Ambassador Team member or as a helper at a Chamber event. John rolled up his sleeves and helped out at the Business Expo, Hathaway Golf Classic and other events. John is a wonderful representative of his business, Telworx, and he is an excellent volunteer for our Chamber.



Volunteer of the Year 2020-2021
Bryan Tabizon, 2020-2021 Whittier Chamber Chair of the Board and Jeff Ball, Friendly Hills Bank President and CEO



Volunteer of the Year 2019-2020
Elizabeth Martinez, 2019-2020 Whittier Chamber
Chair of the Board and John Bogdanov, Telworx

Ambassador of the Year

The Ambassador of the Year is someone who goes above and beyond to make new members feel welcomed, helps to retain existing members through phone calls and visits and helps out at Chamber programs and events. Even though our Ambassador Team was not able to perform many of their normal duties this year, John Bodanov was always supportive of our virtual connection events and went out of his way to reach out to our members during our Membership Appreciation Week.



Ambassador of the Year 2020-2021 Bryan Tabizon, 2020-2021 Whittier Chamber Chair of the Board and John Bogdanov, Telworx

The Ambassador of the Year is a peer-driven award that is voted on by members of the Ambassador Team and is given to someone who goes above and beyond in the areas of member retention and attraction. Tom Guerrero was given this coveted award for leading the Ambassador Team during his year of serving as Ambassador co-chair in 2019-2020.



Ambassador of the Year 2019-2020 Elizabeth Martinez, 2019-2020 Whittier Chamber Chair of the Board and Tom Guerrero, Say Cheese Photography

21 Ways to Support Small Businesses in 2021

Small Business Week is a celebration and appreciation of small businesses in our community. With an emphasis on local shopping and supporting local entrepreneurs, it highlights the role nation's economy.

Small business week has been going on for more than 50 years, with small businesses leveraging the opportunity to influence their local community, reward loyal customers and partner with • Order take-out. Many restaurants other small businesses.

Shops, restaurants and offices make up the fabric of our communities and it's more important now, than ever before, • Work out with home to support our small businesses.

We know we are stronger together, and because of that we encourage you to be a source of support as we work together to rebuild our economy. Together, we can truly make a difference to help save our small businesses and the jobs they create.

There are surprisingly simple ways to help and support small businesses. Most can be done from your home or office! From ordering takeout or delivery to making small donations to • benefit workers, here are 21 ways you can support small businesses in 2021:

Support Small Businesses Today

- · Shop locally and online. Watch for shops that are opened with limited capacity, but don't forget online operations too. If you don't yet feel comfortable being out and about, many of your favorite local spots have an online presence. Those sales will be crucial to help them stay afloat.
- Commit to doing one small thing for a favored small business

each week. Whether it's a purchase or a shout-out, supporting small businesses each week will not only give you peace of mind, but will help the owners and the economy.

- small businesses contribute to the Buy gift cards. You may not use the gift cards right away, but the revenue from these sales is a huge help to the small business as they build back up again. To the business, it's a promise that you'll continue to be a customer later.
 - are still open for curbside pick-up or delivery so continue to support them by bringing food home.
 - equipment and online classes. If your favorite local gym is shut down or at limited capacity - look into buying equipment from online small businesses or support your local gym or community center by purchasing online classes.
 - Tip generously. Tips are even more important right now to support small business workers who might have lost hours due to shutdowns and limited capacity.
 - Buy merch. Businesses that have lost traditional foot traffic often have tees, caps or other branded items for sale online. Support small businesses by purchasing and wearing their items and even tagging them in a pic.
 - Shop now for later. You can support small businesses by improving their cash flow now. Think about gifts, birthdays, or other purchases that you can buy now and give later.
 - Buy books from online stores. Take a break from getting books from Amazon and look into books from smaller independent stores that sell

- Take up a fun quarantine project. Whether it's redecorating a room or trying out a new DIY project, support small businesses by buying their supplies and decor and start getting . creative!
- Consider small before big. When you are doing your normal online shopping, before hitting purchase think about if the items in your cart could be bought from a small . business. Always be mindful and take that extra second to see if you could be supporting small businesses.

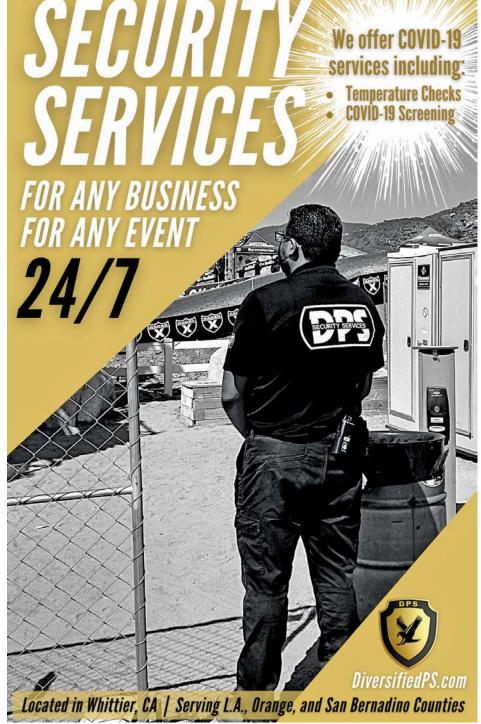
How To Support Small Businesses For Free

- Share their posts on social media. Watch for updates and inspiring posts from a business. Small business owners are getting creative with unique ways to serve you so keep in touch via Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn etc. And share - it's good exposure for them.
- Write a review. Now more than ever, a review about customer service or awesome products will make a difference. Help them show up online as a 5-star business to help them attract new customers.
- Tell a family member or friend about a small business you love. Use word of mouth to support your favorite small businesses. Your family members or friends will likely trust and remember them more if it is shared personally.
- Sign-up for newsletters. Showing support for your favorite small business's newsletter helps them know you are a fan. It also can notify you of any virtual events or special promotions.

- Comment something nice. One easy way to support small businesses is simply commenting on their post. It can be words of encouragement, a reply to their product, or even a nice hello.
- Tag a friend. Many small businesses are offering up special promotions on posts to gain more customers. When you see these kinds of posts - tag a friend, you never know who may be in the shopping mood.
- Post a pic and give a shout out. You can support small businesses by sharing a photo of their shop and tagging them. And if you do decide to purchase something – share a quick pic. The more they get their name out there, the better.
- Check-in with small business owners and employees. If you are picking up food, ordering online, or browsing their social media, make sure to check in and ask how they are doing. No better way to support small businesses than verbally checking in.
- Show your appreciation. Tell them thank you. You can easily show genuine support by sharing your gratitude and thanking them for trying their best during hard times.
- Thank them for their community support. Many small businesses support the community by being a member of the Chamber of Commerce or participation in service clubs or organizations. Support those businesses who give back and help make our community great.

When you support small businesses, you are fostering a thriving economy and community. Let's join together and be there for small businesses. Our communities would not be the same without them.





Covid Shield™ Certification instills customer confidence and helps restaurants gain public trust



According to a recent survey, 52% of Americans are excited to return to restaurants.* However, the consensus from the public is that they want to feel safe that restaurants are taking the appropriate precautions and following health department protocols. According to Covid

Shield™ (in partnership with Whittier-based eFortyTwo Solutions) 85% of patrons would choose a restaurant with a regulated and audited COVID-19 health safe certificate over one that didn't have any certification.

"Our goal is to renew revenue streams for local familyrun businesses by offering an audited certification process that clearly defines the Department of Health protocols, providing owners with the tools they need to educate their staff and patrons, and reinforce the current pandemic safety measures. Diners and restaurant staff are becoming more comfortable and confident with dining out, but safety is still top of mind. Restaurants committing to an audited safety certificate add peace of mind for their diners and staff," said Laramie Ericson of Covid Shield™, which was established to help eateries correctly follow California Department of Health safety protocols.

Two restaurants in uptown Whittier, Modern Shaman and Crêpes & Grapes Café, have taken reactive steps to ensure the safety and wellbeing of their staff and patrons by receiving their Covid Shield™ Certification that includes online training, employee training and on-going audits to confirm protocols are in place.

"Our customers and employees feel safer and more confident in us to provide a service centered around food, which is a vulnerable and vital part of the human experience" said Sandra Hahn, owner of Crêpes & Grapes Café.

With so much at stake for public health and the livelihood of California's restaurants and economy, it's critical to get safety protocols right. If you or someone you know own a restaurant, in just a short amount of time it can be Covid Shield™ certified to give yourself, your staff and your patrons ease of mind. For more information on certification or to see if you qualify visit covidshieldcertification.com. Special pricing is available for Chamber members.

*https://morningconsult.com/return-to-dining/

Premium Pay Penalty Due When Employee Given Late Meal Break

By Ellen Savage, CalChamber Alert

Yesterday our store was very busy, so I could not let my employee leave for a meal break until very late in the day. Do I owe the employee a one-hour meal period penalty because their lunch break was late, or is it owed only if they didn't get a meal break at all?

California's meal period penalty is owed both when an employer fails to provide an employee with a meal break at all, as well as when the meal break is provided later than is legally required. The penalty is known as premium pay.

Meal Break Mandate

California law mandates that meal breaks must be provided on shifts over a certain length, and also sets a time by which meal breaks must be taken. Employees who work more than five hours must be provided with a meal break of at least 30 minutes, and that meal break must begin no later than the end of the employee's fifth hour of work.

This means the employee must clock out for a meal break no later than 4 hours and 59 minutes after starting work. Note that there is an exception allowing an employee who works no more than six hours to waive their meal period with consent of the employer.

Theserules regarding meal period requirements are contained in Labor Code Sections 226.7 and 512, as well as Section 11 of each of California's Welfare Commission (IWC) Industrial Wage Orders.

Premium Pay Penalty

Labor Code Section 226.7(c) requires a penalty of one additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation "if an employer fails to provide an employee a meal ... period in accordance with a state law, including,

but not limited to, an applicable statute or applicable regulation, standard, or order of the Industrial Welfare Commission...."

Since providing a meal break that starts later than the end of the employee's fifth hour of work is not in accordance with the timing requirement in the state Labor Code and the IWC Wage Orders, one hour of premium pay is owed to an employee who is not provided a meal break until after that time. This is true even though the employee eventually was provided with a meal break later in the day.

Second Meal Break

A second meal break is required when an employee works longer than 10 hours. The meal break must begin no later than the end of the 10th hour of work. An employee may waive the second meal break if they will work no longer than 12 hours and have taken the first meal break as required.

A meal break penalty is owed to an employee whose required second meal break is not provided, or provided later than the required time. If the employee were to be denied both meal breaks or given both meal breaks late, however, the statute requires payment of the penalty only once for each workday.

This means an employee who was provided late meal breaks multiple times in one day, or given no meal breaks at all, would receive only one hour of premium pay.

Note that there is an exception to the meal break rules for employees working in the motion picture industry under IWC Wage Order 12, which allows those employees to work up to six hours without a meal period, even without a waiver.



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MEMBER NEWS

Rob Marin Realty featured in RISMedia 2021 Real Estate **Newsmakers**



Rob Marin, an agent with Keller Williams Larchmont, is dedicated to supporting his community. He has served as a board member and vice president of the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter (WCCS), board member

of the Rotary Club, ambassador for the Whittier Area Chamber (which includes mentoring high school students), member of the Agency Leadership Council and Diversity University Task Force at KW Larchmont. and member of the Whittier Pride Committee of 2020. Read more at whittierchamber.com/news.



Rio Hondo College Foundation Golf Tournament's Sponsorship Deals are in Full Swing

The Rio Hondo College Foundation's mission is to secure financial assistance for scholarships, programs, equipment, and projects that meet the needs of the College's diverse student population. On Friday, June 4, 2021, you can enjoy a Golf Tournament at the California Country Club while supporting Rio Hondo's mission. All golfers will enjoy Tournament Entry and Golf Cart, One Golf Shirt, One Gift Bag, Breakfast and Lunch, Beverages and snacks throughout the Tournament. Read more at whittierchamber.com/news.

Stanford-bound Whittier Union Senior Awarded \$40,000 College **Board Opportunity Scholarship**

California High School senior Bryant Mendez Melchor is one step closer to fulfilling his dream of attending an elite university after receiving a \$40,000 College Board Opportunity Scholarship, awarded to just 25 students from across the country. Mendez, a high-achieving scholar with a 4.55 GPA, will attend Stanford University and major in computer science. As a first-generation American, Mendez's determination to succeed is inspired by his family and a deep compassion for helping others. "I feel gratified to receive this scholarship," Mendez said. "I have seen the sacrifices my parents have made, allowing me to pursue my education and inspiring me to channel their work ethic to help others. It shows that their hard work has paid off." Read more at whittierchamber.com/news.

PIH Health Acquires Los Angeles Cardiology Associates



PIHHealthannouncedthatithasacquiredthe nationally recognized Los Angeles Cardiology Associates effective April 1, 2021. With the acquisition, the 12 healthcare providers of

Los Angeles Cardiology Associates are now part of its existing medical group, PIH Health Physicians. PIH Health adds an additional seven medical offices to its network which are located in Cypress, Lancaster, Los Angeles, Palmdale, San Bernardino, and Upland. Read more at whittierchamber.com/news.



2021 Whittier Scholarship Program Sponsored by REPUBLIC **Athens Services and Republic Services**



The essay contest is open to college-bound graduating high school seniors. You must be a resident of the City of Whittier. The location of your high school is not used as an eligibility factor. Students living in the unincorporated Los Angeles County areas of Whittier or outside the City of Whittier City limits are ineligible. Five (5) \$500 individual scholarships will be awarded to five (5) recipients living in Athens Services' service area. Four (4) \$500 individual scholarships will be awarded to four (4) recipients living in Republic Services' service area. Winners will be notified by June 4, 2021. Winners will be invited to either a reception at City Hall, 13230 Penn St., or receive a package in the mail to be recognized and presented with their scholarship check. Read more at whittierchamber.com/news.



Ambassador Team 2021-2022

Ambassador Chair Laurie Perschbacher, MAP Property Management, Inc.

Alyssa Barrios, Mary Kay

John Bogdanov, Telworx

Judy Bradt, A Special Event

Steve Burns, Steven Burns Photography

Courtney French, Credit Union of Southern California

Mary Garcia, Helpline Youth Counseling

Tom Guerrero, Say Cheese Photography

Paul Hernandez, State Farm Insurance - Paul Hernandez

Rob Marin, Rob Marin Realty

Peter Rodriguez Peter Rodriguez -Valley View Home Loans

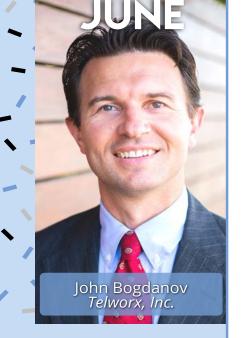
Lauren Sweeney, Rise Up For You

Christy Wyant, Martplan Insurance Agency, Inc.





Ambassadors are volunteers who believe in the Whittier Chamber's mission & values



Tom Guerrero, Say Cheese Photography -Ambassador of the Year, 2019-2020

from weddings to portraitures to sports relationships with his fellow members is teams and events. Tom has over 35 one of his favorite things about being part years of experience in photography and of the Ambassador Team. has had images published in Sports provides photo booths for any occasion.

for 8 years and an Ambassador for 7 these days at Online Wake Up Whittier. years. Tom served as the co-chair of the Ambassador Team for 3 years. His advice he has received is, "don't wait until guidance and leadership earned him the you've finished your current job to get title of Ambassador of the Year for the another one – always keep your pipeline year 2019-2020. "The Whittier Chamber full of potential opportunities." the Chamber puts out about the City and says Tom.

Tom Guerrero is the owner of Say local events has been so helpful to my Cheese Photography, a local photography becoming a better part of the community," company capturing memorable moments he continued. Building close, personal

In addition to serving on the Ambassador Illustrated and featured on CD covers. Team, Tom has been the Chamber's "Big or small, I can help you with your official foursome photographer at the photographic needs," says Tom who also Hathaway Golf Classic as well as at the Chamber's Silver Shield Awards Tom has been a Chamber member Banquet. Tom can regularly be seen

According to Tom, the best business

has such a large number of members that Tom's advice to Chamber members is if I am looking for a vendor to help with an this: the more you put into the Chamber, event, I don't have to look far," he says. the more you will get out of the Chamber. "The constant flow of information that "Be active and grow your business!"

John Bogdanov, Telworx Ambassador of the Year, 2020-2021

a full-service telecommunications provider Because of John's outstanding efforts in that provides professional consulting, keeping our new and long-time members procurement and management for Data, connected and informed this past year, Voice, Cloud, Credit Card Processing and John was selected as the Ambassador of other Utility services. "We are the concierge the Year for 2020-2021. and single source for all of your business business and create a solution to fit those the Business Expo. needs," continued John.

member since July, 2018 and within a a mindset of abundance. "Look for year he became part of the Ambassador opportunities to serve others and add Team. He believes the Chamber has been value to them," he explained. a great resource for him to be involved with the business community and being Chamber or your business, I am always an Ambassador has provided him with happy to help," says John. Congratulations

John Bogdanov is an Advisor for TelWorx, to the Chamber and local businesses.

John has recently been asked to technology and telecommunications, participate and provide guidance on helping your business save time and money the Networking committee; one of the sourcing and implementing technology," Chamber Board's 2021 strategic areas. says John. "Whether it is phones, Internet, Additionally, John is currently connecting software, network, security or raising your with others at Online Wake Up Whittier page rank with Google, we work with you and Virtual Happy Hour and is a supporter to understand the unique needs of your of local businesses at ribbon cuttings and

According to John, the best business John has been a Whittier Chamber advice he has received is to develop

"Whether you need help related to the even more opportunities to be of service John, our Ambassador of the Year!

From Whittier to the White House: **Nixon Tour Coming to Whittier**

Many know that President Richard Nixon was born in Yorba Linda but opportunity here in Whittier and what spent much of his youth in Whittier. It was here that he lived, went to high school, college, had his first law office, and started his political career.

The Chamber, along with community leaders, residents and history buffs, are working together on a tour of Nixon's life in Whittier. "Richard Nixon is the only native Californian to have ever reached the White House and Whittier has the unique opportunity to offer a tour of his life that cannot be replicated elsewhere," stated Paul Carter, organizer of the Nixon bus tour and author of Native Son: Richard Nixon's Southern California, a unique map biography of President Nixon.

"Richard Nixon was a son, brother, friend, husband, father, uncle and grandfather," explained Carter. "By creating a narrated bus tour where we shift the focus from Watergate and Washington policy and instead examine the deep, defining Whittier roots and life experiences of America's thirty-seventh President, this tour will challenge common preconceptions of Richard Nixon," he continued.

More biographies have been written on Richard Nixon than any other U.S. politician. Every modern biography of Richard Nixon has been consumed with Watergate, the prism through which America's thirty-seventh President is viewed. Nixon has been analyzed from every perspective, except onearguably the most important-as Whittier's native son.

"We have never had a real tourism a great way to celebrate President Nixon and his hometown. I'm looking forward to the new visitors who will learn so much about the President's formative years and the town that was an instrumental part of those years," shared Mayor Joe Vinatieri.

The territory traversed by this tour is previously unexplored, revealing for the first time the people, places and experiences that comprised the very fabric of Richard Nixon, and which made him tremendously respected by those who came to truly know him.

"We are quite optimistic that the tour, which will be an informative and entertaining experience that is historical and educational in nature, will be an incredibly successful attraction in Whittier," stated Carol Crosby, Chamber President and CEO. "We are creating a tour that will be attractive to tourists, historical organizations, corporate executives, civic organizations and service clubs, church groups, students, Whittier residents and more," she continued.

The planning and focus groups continue to meet and refine the narrative of the tour. The first tour is expected to be available for booking this summer. "We are dedicated to establishing excellent relationships with the community while bringing a fun and informative tour to Whittier," said Carter. For more information, including dates and pricing, contact Paul Carter at (562) 884-4492 or paul@richardnixonsocal.com.

Steps to Take for Safely Returning **Employees to the Workplace**

By Bianca Saad, Cal Chamber Alert, March 26, 2021

What COVID-19 safety measures do employers need to have in place before bringing employees back to the worksite from remote work?

Employers who are bringing their employees back to the workplace have several steps and considerations to make.

Written Prevention Program

One major safety component is developing a written COVID-19 Prevention Program, as required under the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS) that took effect on November 30, 2020.

In creating your written COVID-19 Prevention Program, you will need to address several topics, including but not limited to how you will: communicate your COVID-19 prevention procedures to your employees; identify, evaluate and correct COVID-19 hazards; implement physical distancing and face covering requirements; investigate and respond to COVID-19 cases in the workplace; provide testing to employees who may have been exposed to COVID-19 in the workplace; and exclude COVID-19 cases and exposed employees from the workplace.

Cal/OSHA has made a Model COVID-19 Prevention Program available for employers to use.

COVID-19 Testing

Aside from addressing the topic of testing in the written COVID-19 Prevention Program, employers are required to provide COVID-19 testing for employees who were exposed to COVID-19 at work (additional testing requirements are triggered by "major" or "multiple" outbreaks as defined by

the ETS), exclude COVID-19 cases and exposed employees from the workplace (including maintaining pay and benefits), and ensuring specific criteria are met before COVID-19 cases and exposed employees may safely return to work.

Notifications/Reporting

Employers should also be familiar and ready to comply with your various notification and reporting requirements related to COVID-19.

Under AB 685, and under the Cal/ OSHA ETS, employers must notify all employees within one business day of learning of a positive case in the workplace. Additionally, employers have obligations to report all positive cases to their workers' compensation carrier under SB 1159.

Sick Leave

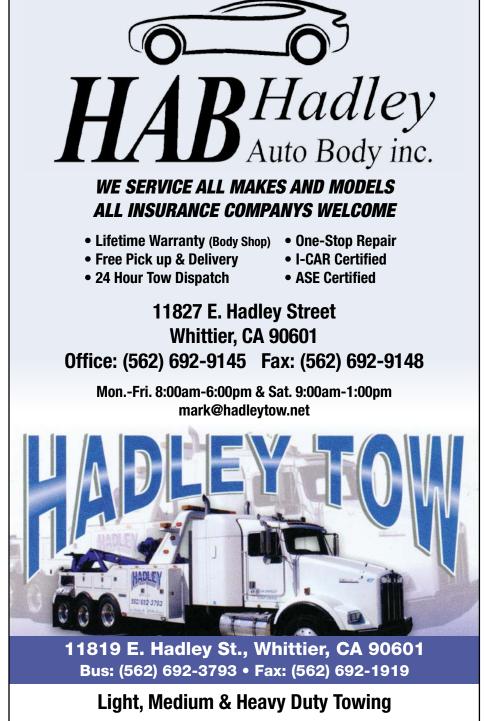
Lastly, part of maintaining a safe and healthy workplace includes allowing employees who are sick or experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms to stay home.

Available leave may include California mandated paid sick leave, leave under the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act for those employers voluntarily providing it, local paid sick leave or supplemental paid sick leave ordinances, and most recently, California's newly enacted supplemental paid sick leave law.

Industry-Specific Standards

Keep in mind this is a general overview of some of the highlighted safety measures to have in place. Employers should also check for any industry-specific standards, along with any requirements of their particular local health department.







RENEWING MEMBERS

Thanks to the following members for renewing their Chamber membership and for supporting our efforts to build a strong local economy

MARCH

A Special Event (562) 695-9570

Aion Web and Graphic Designs (323) 714-4802

The Bee Hive Market and Deli (562) 945-9002

Bill & Jim's Auto Repair (562) 695-0404

Candlewood Country Club (562) 941-1228 X226

Catering By Herach & Ara (323) 728-0573

Cetera Advisor Networks Christopher J. George (562) 945-7787

Chemique Pharmaceuticals (562) 698-0921

CIL Freight (626) 964-3232

Clearman's Steak N Stein Inn (562) 699-8823

Credit Union of Southern California (866) 287-6225

Crêpes & Grapes Café (562) 696-3255

Domis Team - Linda Domis (562) 884-5373

Doubletree By Hilton - Whittier(562) 945-8511

East Whittier City School District (562) 907-5900

Employer's Choice Screening (562) 319-0413

Friendly Hills Bank (562) 947-1920 Friends Chiropractic (562) 698-1275

Hadley Auto Body (562) 692-3793

Harmony Center For Spiritual Living (562) 698-0341

Kaiser Permanente (562) 657-4452

Kirschenbaum, Norm & Theola

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. David Krake (714) 257-4481

Muhlestein, Jeanne (562) 698-1809

Neece Coaching and Consulting (562) 587-8126

P.C. Help Desk, The (562) 869-4435

Pacific Western Bank (562) 902-2292

Perisho & Associates (562) 547-6569

R2KS Design + Build (562) 907-4426

San Miguel Apartments (562) 698-1290

Shakey's Pizza (562) 692-0741

Soroptimist International of Whittier (562) 652-3451

Sprinkler Fitters U.A. Local 709 (562) 698-9909 X114

Stater Bros. Markets (562) 941-7711

Whittier City School District (562) 789-3068

Whittier Community Foundation (562) 250-4492

Whittier Square Building (562) 945-5959

APRIL

Ad infin Item (415) 459-1146

Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo (562) 653-3200

Baker's Lock & Key (562) 698-8051

Bob Downey & Sons' West Whittier Paint Co. (562) 692-7214

Brickhouse Pizza (562) 693-9523

Brookdale Uptown Whittier (562) 945-3904

Caldwell Insurance Agency (562) 697-6200

California Grill (562) 907-7017

CAPC, Inc. (562) 693-8826

Crocker Signs & Printing (562) 698-0711

CWP Heating & Air, Inc. (562) 945-0979

East Whittier Arts Education Foundation (562) 665-6963

Family Church Whittier (562) 698-6737 X11

Friendly Hills Bank Payroll (562) 691-5522

Friendly Hills Inn (562) 698-6731

Guerra & Gutierrez Mortuary (562) 698-9935

> Martplan Insurance Agency, Inc. (562) 691-9414

Oceanic Arts (562) 698-6960

Pacific Palms Resort (626) 810-4455

PIH Health (562) 698-0811

(002) 000 0011

Quad at Whittier, The (562) 693-5543 X1210

Rotary Club of Whittier (562) 756-3231

Second Church of Christ, Scientist

(562) 693-9116

Staples

(562) 698-2034

State Farm Insurance -Clayton Agency (562) 947-4795

> Steven Burns Photography (562) 322-3232

Tacos Baja (562) 315-5637

Traveling Traveler, The (562) 907-7938

UPS Store #1578, The (562) 907-3800

White-Emerson Mortuary (562) 698-0304

Whittier Brokers (562) 693-3757

Whittier Elks Lodge #1258 (562) 696-7117

Whittier Republican Women Federated (562) 691-2419





Congratulations to our Milestone Members this month!

Thank you to the following businesses that have been longstanding partners with the Whittier Chamber in helping to support our thriving economy.

MAY

20 Years

Walnut Villa, Inc. (562) 946-7318 x6318

15 Years Lambert Inn

(562) 693-1099

10 Years

Comfort Keepers La Mirada, Whittier, Long Beach and Seal Beach (714) 521-9955

JUNE

10 Years

St. Marks Lutheran School (626) 968-0428

5 Years

Grocery Outlet (562) 464-0466

Special Children's League (562) 355-4147

> **Primerica** (909) 944-3390

JOIN ME IN BECOMING A CHAMBER MEMBER

Rob Marin. Rob Marin Realty

TESTIMONIAL

The Chamber can be the avenue for connections: connections for your business and connections for the community. Being involved in the Chamber affords the opportunities to grow your business and deepen your ties in the community. I joined the Chamber 5 years ago and will continue to be an active member, strengthening my connections.

NEW MEMBERS

ATTORNEYS/LEGAL SERVICES

The Accident Guys - Whittier 6528 Greenleaf Ave., Ste 102 Whittier, CA 90601

Rep: William Leitch Phone: (310) 742-2252

Email: marketing@calltheaccidentguys.com Website: calltheaccidentguys.com/whittier



The Accident Guys have represented thousands of clients since the inception of their firm, and they take great pride in the quality of their service, as well as in the positive difference they continue to make in the lives of their clients. The Accident Guys - Whittier believes this commitment is reflected in countless reviews and testimonials they've received over the years from clients who go out of their way

to share about their experience working with them!

ATTORNEYS/LEGAL SERVICES

SCAN Health Plan 3800 Kilroy Airport Way, Ste 100 Long Beach, CA 90806

Rep: Odine Thompson Phone: (310) 866-0743

Email: othompson@scanhealthplan.com

Website: scanhealthplan.com/sales/OndineThompson

SCAN Health Plan, a not-for-profit Medicare Advantage health plan, was founded in 1977 by seniors for seniors. Their mission is to keep seniors and people with disabilities healthy and independent for years to come. That's been their mission since day one. For over twenty years, Odine has been helping her local community with their Medicare needs. Please call Odine on her direct line (310)-866-0743 and see if she can assist with your Medicare questions. Ondine Thompson License # 0B85864. Calling this number will direct you to a licensed sales agent.

> For a complete list of new members, visit www.whittierchamber.com



THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITIES FOR YOUR SUPPORT DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

Since our first COVID-19 patient in March 2020, PIH Health has been dedicated to caring for those impacted by this disease and now we are grateful to be turning our attention towards providing vaccine to put an end to this pandemic.

Throughout the past year, you were there supporting our efforts every step of the way. Thank you for your good thoughts, letters and prayers; your donations of food, personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies; your financial support; volunteering your time; and most of all, for trusting us with your care.

Together, we made a difference and as always, PIH Health remains your health and wellness partner!

PIHHealth.org



Big 5 • Blaze Fast Fire'd Pizza • Burlington • Chili's • China Wok • Dollar Tree
Don Roberto's Jewelers • Famous Footwear • Fantastic Sam's • Fashion Q • Five Below
GameStop • GNC • H&R Block • Hawaiian Island BBQ • Hear USA • Maki Yaki Japanese Grill
Marshalls • Michaels • Natalie's Nails & Spa • Petco • Rite Aid • Ross Dress for Less
Rubi's Frosty Freeze • Sally Beauty Supply • Schoolsfirst Federal Credit Union • Staples
Subway • T-Mobile • The Olive Garden • The Quad Cleaners • The UPS Store • TJ Maxx
Vallarta Supermarkets • Weight Watchers • Yogurtland

NOW OPEN – La Michoacana COMING SOON – Doubleju & Cricket Wireless